

## AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

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**ISAAC ASIMOV** It would be hard to imagine a writer more prolific than Isaac Asimov. In his 72 years, he wrote or edited more than 500 books. Though he is best known for his science-fiction novels, he wrote on other subjects as well; his writings are classified in every library subject area except philosophy. Born in Russia in 1920, Asimov and his family immigrated to the United States when he was three years old. They opened a candy store, where young Asimov worked and read the science-fiction magazines that were for sale. He began writing at the age of eleven, and by the time he was eighteen, he had sold his first story. As an adult, Asimov earned a Ph.D. in chemistry from Columbia University, then worked as a chemist at Boston University until writing took his full attention. He also served as president of the American Humanist Society from 1985 until his death in 1992. His science-fiction novels, many which explain difficult concepts in simple ways, are among the most popular books ever written in that genre. Along with Robert Heinlein and Arthur C. Clarke, Asimov is considered one of the three "masters" of science-fiction writing.

**ORSON SCOTT CARD** Known primarily as the writer of the science fiction/fantasy Ender series (*Ender's Game* and *Ender's Shadow* among them), Orson Scott Card also writes biblical novels (such as *Sarah* from the Women of Genesis series), poetry, and plays. He also maintains a Web site featuring writing advice, weekly columns, social commentary, and reviews. Though he writes in a variety of literary styles, Card always emphasizes moral issues. Card, who has won both Hugo and Nebula awards, recently accepted a permanent appointment as a professor at Southern Virginia University.

**WIM COLEMAN** A prolific writer on a variety of subjects, Wim Coleman has been collaborating for over twenty years with his wife Pat Perrin. Some of their books are published under the pseudonym Cole Perriman. Coleman writes in many genres but he may be best known as a playwright; his plays have been produced throughout the United States, and several have won awards. In 2005, Coleman published the first book in a new fantasy series based on myths and legends. He is the author of Perfection Learning's *Stages of History* and *Nine Muses* collections. Coleman and Perrin live in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where they are helping raise a seven-year-old girl.

**JOHN COLLIER** was born in London in 1901 and published his first poem in 1920. He began his career writing poems, short stories, and novels, and many of his short stories were published by *The New Yorker*. In 1935, he moved to Hollywood and began writing television scripts and screenplays, including several scripts for *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*. During the 1950s, Collier won the Edgar Allan Poe Award and the Hugo Award. Collier died in 1980. Despite his literary prizes and commercial success, he never found literary acclaim. For many years, his works were out of print. Nevertheless, fantasy buffs extolled his stories, and some of them have recently been reprinted.

**JIM CORT** lives in New Jersey with his wife and family of three girls, one guinea pig, two dogs, and two cats. He writes short stories, nonfiction, and radio scripts, many of which can be downloaded from the Internet. Cort travels his home state giving talks on "The War of the Worlds," the 1938 radio broadcast by Orson Welles that alarmed listeners by reporting that a "huge flaming object" had dropped on a farm near Grovers Mill, New Jersey. His favorite medium is radio.

**PETER DICKINSON** Declaring that he never *became* a writer, Peter Dickinson maintains that he has *been* a writer for as long as he can remember. He describes himself on his Web site as a tall, elderly, bony, beaky, wrinkled sort of fellow with a lot of untidy grey hair and a weird hooting voice. Dickinson was born in central Africa and raised mostly in England. After graduating from Cambridge University, he served in the British army and then worked for *Punch* magazine for seventeen years. Dickinson tried his hand, unsuccessfully, at writing a murder mystery before turning to fantasy. He has since written more than 50 books and has collaborated with his wife, Robin McKinley, on a collection of tales linked by an aquatic theme, called *Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits*. Dickinson, who writes for both juveniles and adults, has won many awards, including the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Award.

**LORD DUNSANY** Born in 1878, Edward John Moreton Drax Plunkett became the eighteenth Baron Dunsany in 1899. Dunsany served in the Boer War and World War I before settling in at Dunsany Castle in Meath, Ireland. He paid to have his first book of fantasy published in 1905, but he went on to become one of the most influential writers ever to write fantasy literature. Almost everything Dunsany wrote has been acclaimed, but his best-loved works are the fantasy stories he produced between 1905 and 1911 and the stage plays he produced until his death in 1957. "Idle Days on the Yann" and "A Shop in Go-by Street" are but two of his much-loved tales.

**BETSY HEARNE** In addition to being a poet, Betsy Hearne is a professor of children's literature and storytelling at the University of Illinois graduate school of library science. Several of her books for children have won awards, including the 1998 Jane Addams Children's Book Award for *Seven Brave Women* and a Parents' Choice Silver Honor Award. Hearne has worked for more than 30 years as a book editor and reviewer and still writes reviews for the *New York Times Book Review*.

**MARVIN KAYE** is the author of more than twenty books and a contributor to dozens more. He has also written several plays and dramatic adaptations of works and is the editor of both *H.P. Lovecraft's Magazine of Horror* and *Sherlock Holmes Mystery Magazine*. In addition to writing and editing literature, he promotes it as well. Kaye is on staff at Mercy College in Manhattan, where he directs its tutoring program, and he is an adjunct professor of creative writing at NYU.

**URSULA K. LE GUIN** When it comes to writing, Ursula K. Le Guin can do almost anything. She has published six books of poetry, several books of children's fiction, twenty novels, and more than a hundred short stories. She has also published books of essays as well as the translated works of other authors. Her writing has repeatedly won awards such as the National Book Award, the Pushcart Prize, the Hugo Award, and the Nebula Award, among others. Le Guin's best-known books are those in the *Earthsea Trilogy*, which have been translated into sixteen languages. Though she was born and grew up in Berkeley, California, Le Guin has lived in Portland, Oregon, since 1958, where she protects her private life but occasionally offers writing workshops.

**ELISE MATTHESEN** is a writer, speaker, workshop presenter, and jewelry maker whose nickname is Lioness. She is an active participant in the Artist's Challenge, a project in which artists create works in one medium that are inspired by the work of artists in another medium.

**TAMORA PIERCE** Born to a poor family in rural Pennsylvania in 1954, Tamora Pierce grew up telling herself stories about girl warriors. She credits her father with suggesting she write these stories down. Pierce wrote her first novel after graduating from college. It was never published—until a friend and literary agent at the agency where she worked suggested she carve her long novel into four young-adult fantasy novels. These books—the *Circle of Magic* series—launched Pierce's writing career. In 1991, Pierce began to support herself by writing. She has published many fantasy books for young readers and edited, with Josepha Sherman, the anthology *Young Warriors: Stories of Strength*. She continues to specialize in heroines she describes as "girls who kick butt."

**NEAL SHUSTERMAN** Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Neal Shusterman began writing stories in ninth grade when a teacher offered him extra credit for writing a story a month. Shortly after he graduated from college, he began writing a humor column that was picked up by the Syndicated Writer's Group. Since that time, he has also found success as a novelist, screenwriter, and television writer. Shusterman also has created mystery games for teens and adults. He has won dozens of awards for his work, including several American Library Association awards. Currently, he lives in California with his four children, whom he describes as a "constant inspiration."

**STEVIE SMITH** Born in England in 1903, Stevie Smith's father abandoned the family when she was just three, forcing Smith, her mother, and her sister to move in with an aunt. Smith contracted tuberculosis at age five and was sent away to live in a sanitarium for several years. Upon her recovery, she returned to her aunt's home, where she lived the rest of her life. Because she did not want to become a teacher, Smith attended secretarial school and took a job as a private secretary, writing in her free time. In 1936, she published a well-received novel, and the next year she published her first volume of poems. In 1953, Smith quit her job and began to write full-time. Eventually, she produced three novels and nine volumes of poetry, which she

often illustrated with small sketches. Gradually, both her writing and her sketches found admirers, especially among younger readers. By the time she died in 1971, Smith's work was both well-known and widely admired.

**NANCY SPRINGER** A versatile writer of fiction, nonfiction, short stories, and poetry for children and young adults, Nancy Springer has won more than a dozen awards for her work. She is best known as a fantasy writer, but she also teaches creative writing at York College in Pennsylvania and visits elementary, middle, and high schools to facilitate writing workshops for kids. When she is not writing, teaching writing, or promoting writing, Springer volunteers at the Wind Ridge Farm Equine Sanctuary and at Animal Rescue, Inc.

**LOUIS UNTERMAYER** Although he was an accomplished poet, writer, editor, anthologist, translator, and lecturer, Louis Untermeyer never finished high school. He was born in New York City in 1885, and like many young men of his time, he quit school to work for his father as a jewelry manufacturer. Yet he couldn't resist writing. In 1911, Untermeyer published his first book of poems, *First Love*. Soon after, he and other left-leaning writers began publishing a Marxist journal, *The Masses*, which argued against U.S. involvement in World War I. After the United States entered the war, the government forced the magazine out of business. Not to be deterred, Untermeyer and friends launched a new magazine called the *Liberator*. In 1923, Untermeyer quit working in his father's company and devoted himself full-time to literature. He continued working for leftist causes and during the McCarthy era was blacklisted. In 1956, however, he won a gold medal from the Poetry Society of America. Shortly afterward, he became a poetry consultant for the Library of Congress. Louis Untermeyer died in 1977.

**PATRICIA C. WREDE** was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1953. She attended college and graduate school in Minnesota, where she still lives. Though she was already writing when she was in seventh grade, Wrede began her career in the field of finance. She wrote fantasy stories and retellings of fairy tales on her own time, publishing four novels before deciding to quit her job and write full-time. Wrede has created three distinct fantasy series, several individual novels, countless short stories, and two collaborative novels. She also has contributed to the *Star Wars* novelization series.

## ADDITIONAL READING

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*Abarat*, Clive Barker. Candy Quackenbush of Chickentown, Minnesota, one day finds herself on the edge of a foreign world that is populated by strange creatures, and her life is forever changed. (c)2002

*An Acceptable Time*, Madeleine L'Engle. In this enthralling tale of time travel, Polly is swept from her grandparents' farm back to a world 3,000 years ago and comes face-to-face with a fierce people who believe in human sacrifice. (c)1990

*Across the Nightingale Floor: Tales of the Otori*, Book One, Lian Hearn. In his black-walled fortress at Inuyama, the warlord Lida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it. (c)2003

*The Dark Is Rising*, Susan Cooper. For the twelve days of Christmas, life for Will Stanton is simultaneously ordinary and wonderful as he is drawn through terror and delight into the eternal conflict between good and evil. Newbery Honor winner. (c)1999

*Dealing with Dragons*, Patricia C. Wrede. Cimorene, the daughter of a very proper king, runs away and becomes the princess of the very powerful dragon, Kazul. Enchanted Forest Chronicles #1. (c)1996

*Dragonflight*, Anne McCaffrey. Adventures of the magnificent flying Dragonriders of Pern. (c)1986

*Dragon of the Lost Sea*, Laurence Yep. Shimmer, a renegade dragon princess, tries to redeem herself by capturing a witch with the help of a human boy. (c)1988

*Dragon Rider*, Cornelia Funke. After learning that humans are headed toward his hidden home, Firedrake, a silver dragon, is joined by a brownie and an orphan boy in a quest to find the legendary valley known as the Rim of Heaven. They encounter friendly and unfriendly creatures along the way and struggle to evade the relentless pursuit of an old enemy. (c)2004

*East*, Edith Pattou. A young woman journeys to a distant castle on the back of a great white bear who is the victim of a cruel enchantment. (c)2003

*The Goblin Wood*, Hilari Bell. A young Hedgewitch, an idealistic knight, and an army of clever goblins fight against the ruling hierarchy that is trying to rid the land of all magical creatures. (c)2003

*Grass for His Pillow: Tales of the Otori*, Book Two, Lian Hearn. The story of Takeo, the young orphan taken up by the Otori Lord and now a closely held member of the Tribe, and his beloved Shirakawa Kaede, heir to the Maruyama, who must find a way to unify the domain she has inherited. (c)2003

*The Hero and the Crown*, Robin McKinley. Fighting the dragon made girl-warrior Aerin a legend for all time and a true hero who would wield the power of the blue sword. Sequel to *The Blue Sword*. Newbery Medal winner. (c)1987

*A Hidden Magic*, Vivian Vande Velde. Fantasy parody about a plain princess and a reluctant wizard who must save a conceited prince who has offended a witch. (c)1997

*The Hobbit*, J.R.R. Tolkien. This stirring adventure is a fantasy that introduces the far-wandering hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. (c)1982

*King of Shadows*, Susan Cooper. While in London as part of an all-boy acting company preparing to perform in a replica of the famous Globe Theatre, Nat Field suddenly finds himself transported back to 1599 and performing in the original theater under the tutelage of Shakespeare himself. (c)1999

*King of the Middle March*, Kevin Crossley-Holland. As Arthur waits for the start of the fourth Crusade, when his future should be clearest, he feels the most doubt. Jealousies and greed rive the Crusade, leading him to question its true mission. And his seeing stone shows him the last days of King Arthur's court—a great dream destroyed, but also a glorious legend rising from the ruins. (c)2004

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C.S. Lewis. First in the famous Chronicles of Narnia series. (c)

*Loamhedge*, Brian Jacques. While a group of adventurers from Redwall seeks out the ancient abbey of Loamhedge in hopes of curing a young haremaid's paralysis, Redwall is besieged by vermin. Number 16 in the Redwall Chronicles. (c)2003

*Redwall*, Brian Jacques. In the glorious tradition of *Watership Down* comes the heart-soaring story of a wondrous quest to recover a legendary lost weapon and a bumbling young apprentice monk named Matthias, mousekind's most unlikely hero. First in the Redwall Chronicles. (c)1990

*The Remarkable Journey of Prince Jen*, Lloyd Alexander. Bearing six unusual gifts, young Prince Jen embarks on a perilous quest and triumphantly enters into manhood. (c)1993

*The Seeing Stone*, Kevin Crossley-Holland. In late twelfth-century England, a thirteen-year-old boy named Arthur recounts how Merlin gives him a magical seeing stone, which shows him images of the legendary King Arthur, whose life seems to parallel his own. (c)2001

*Seventh Son*, Orson Scott Card. In an alternate early nineteenth-century America where folk magic works, Alvin Miller is born the seventh son of a seventh son, capable of powerful magic. First in the Tales of Alvin Maker series. (c)1988

*Shadowmancer*, G.P. Taylor. When Obadiah Demurral, the power-hungry Vicar of Thorpe, attempts to become a god by dabbling in magic, Raphah joins forces with Kate and Thomas to stop him. (c)2003

*The Tale of Despereaux: Being the Story of a Mouse, a Princess, Some Soup, and a Spool of Thread*, Kate DiCamillo. The adventures of Despereaux Tilling, a small mouse of unusual talents, the princess that he loves, the servant girl who longs to be a princess, and a devious rat determined to bring them all to ruin. Newbery Medal winner. (c)2003

*The Treekeepers*, Susan Britton. Searching for her father, Bird joins three other children, Issie, Dren, and Stoke, on a journey to the Kingdom of Wen to overthrow the evil Lord Rendarren. (c)2003

*Watership Down*, Richard Adams. The unique odyssey of a rabbit warren and their efforts to survive when a construction team moves into their territory. (c)1975

*The Wee Free Men*, Terry Pratchett. Tiffany, a young witch-to-be in the land of Discworld, teams up with the Wee Free Men, a clan of six-inch-high blue men, to rescue her baby brother and ward off a sinister invasion from Fairyland. (c)2001

*A Wizard of Earthsea*, Ursula K. Le Guin. Ged, the boy wizard, brings forth a beast that wants to destroy his soul. First of the Earthsea Trilogy. (c)1975